

What is claimed is:

1. A computer based order management system comprising:
  - (a) a computer having program memory, working memory, and data memory;
  - (b) a graphical user interface operatively connected to the computer; and
  - (c) the computer being programmed for:
    - (i) displaying an order form comprising a sequence of selection windows for receiving respective specifications of a custom product being ordered by a user of the system, the selection windows displaying specification options as defined by stored product data of the data memory; and
    - (ii) at least some of the selection windows displaying restricted specification options dependent on previously selected specifications, for avoiding selection of inconsistent specifications by the user.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a network interface for permitting the graphical user interface to be remotely connected to the computer.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the graphical user interface is directly connected to the computer, the network interface permitting plural counterparts of the graphical user interface to be operatively connected to the computer for access by multiple users.
4. The system of claim 2, wherein the network interface is implemented for communication over a publically accessible network.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the publically accessible network is the Internet.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the computer is programmed for log-in of users for limiting access to the order form to authorized users.

7. The system of claim 2, wherein the computer is further programmed for transmitting the specifications ordered by the user to a remote facility for filling the order.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the order form further comprises an entry window for receiving a numerical specification element, an associated selection window being selectively disabled depending on comparison of the numerical specification element with a predetermined value.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the associated selection window has set of selection options, a subset only of the selections being disabled in response to entry of the numerical specification element.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the associated selection window has a default setting, the default setting being dependent on user input at the entry window.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the selection windows include a selection button, the computer being further programmed for changing the specification options in another of the selection windows in response to operation of the selection button.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein one of the selection windows has a default setting, the default setting being dependent on user input at a different selection window.

13. A computer based order management system comprising:

- (a) a computer having program memory, working memory, and data memory;
- (b) a graphical user interface operatively connected to the computer;
- (c) a network interface for permitting plural counterparts of the graphical user interface to be remotely connected to the computer for access by multiple users; and
- (d) the computer being programmed for:
  - (i) log-in of users for limiting access to the order form to authorized users;
  - (ii) displaying an order form comprising a sequence of selection windows for receiving respective specifications of a custom product being ordered by a user of the system, the selection windows displaying specification options as defined by stored product data of the data memory, at least some of the selection windows displaying restricted specification options dependent on previously selected specifications;
  - (iii) the order form further comprising an entry window for receiving a numerical specification element, an associated selection window being selectively disabled depending on comparison of the numerical specification element with ~~permitted range of~~ inconsistent specifications by the user; and

(iv) transmitting the specifications ordered by the user to a remote facility for filling the order.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the associated selection window has set of selection options, a subset only of the selections being disabled in response to entry of the numerical specification element.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the associated selection window has a default setting, the default setting being dependent on user input at the entry window.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the selection windows include a selection button, the computer being further programmed for changing the specification options in another of the selection windows in response to operation of the selection button.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein one of the selection windows has a default setting, the default setting being dependent on user input at a different selection window.

18. A method for interactively entering custom product orders for complex custom goods, comprising:

(a) providing a computer having control of a graphic user interface;

(b) under control of the computer, displaying an order form comprising a sequence of selection windows;

(c) displaying specification options in association with respective ones of the selection windows as defined by stored product data of the data memory;

(d) sequentially receiving in the selection windows respective specifications of a custom product being ordered by a user of the system; and

(e) in association with at least some of the selection windows, restricting the display of specification options dependent on previously selected specifications, for avoiding selection of inconsistent specifications by the user.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising displaying a selection window as a selection button, changing the specification options in another of the selection windows in response to operation of the selection button.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of receiving a numerical specification element from the user, and selectively disabling particular ones of the specification options not yet specified depending on comparison of the numerical specification element with a predetermined value.

21. The system of claim 19, further comprising the step of providing a default setting of one of the selection windows, the default setting being dependent on user input at a different selection window.

22. The method of claim 18, further comprising transmitting the specifications ordered by the user to a remote facility for filling the order.